

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): ROY RARD

Docket No.

RARR 105

Serial No.
10/659,524Filing Date
SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

Examiner

Group Art Unit
3723

Invention:

STRAP TENSIONER

I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
(Identify type of correspondence)

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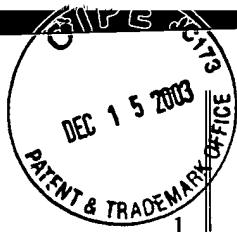
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1 **IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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3 Applicant: ROY RARD
4 Title: STRAP TENSIONER
5 Serial No: 10/659,524
6 Filing Date: SEPTEMBER 10, 2003
7 Group Art Unit: 3723
8 Attorney Docket No: RARR 105
9 Date: December 11, 2003
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14 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

15 **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

16 In compliance with Applicant's and his attorney's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR
17 1.56, the Applicant does hereby submit the following Information Disclosure Statement,
18 Form PTO - 1449, and copies of the references listed thereon.

19 A patent search was manually conducted for the invention described in the above-
20 referenced patent application. In the course of the search, no patents were found for an
21 apparatus that has the same structural features or that operates in the same manner such as the
22 invention listed above. The following eight (8) patents, however, were noted as being of
23 interest and are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention as references AA - AH. The
 significance of each listed reference is as follows:

1 AA. Reference U.S. Patent No. 6,360,410 B1 (Lovato) discloses a strap buckle
2 comprises a male element and a female element which can be snap-fitted together and each of
3 which has means for the connection of a respective portion of strap. The connection means
4 include a device for adjusting the tension of the respective portion of strap, the device
5 comprising two crosspieces which extend between two cheeks of the respective buckle
6 element and define two slots which can be engaged by the strap, for which they define a
7 tortuous path. The adjustment device includes a catch which is articulated to the cheeks about
8 an axis parallel to the crosspieces and which can adopt a clamping position in which it
9 interferes with the strap, preventing the strap from sliding in the slots, or a release position in
10 which it is spaced from the strap.

11 AB. Reference U.S. Patent No. 5,832,569 (Berg) discloses a lockable buckle for
12 belts, straps and the like, consisting of an exterior housing, or shoe, accommodating a freely
13 movable locking slide which forms, between it and the inside of the shoe, a locking area for
14 nipping a belt or the like passing through the buckle. Locking is brought about by means of a
15 manually operated eccenter mechanism engaging the rear end of the slide. The belt is
16 arranged to enter the front of the buckle from below through an opening in the shoe and to
17 pass over a rigid, profiled rib at the front end of the slide before entering the locking area
18 under the slide. When the buckle is locked and the belt is under load, the tension in the belt
19 will press this end of the slide against the belt, assisting the locking action exercised by the
20 eccenter mechanism. One end of the belt can be secured to the rear end of the shoe by
21 friction, by being threaded back and forth through openings in the shoe, and in such a way

1 that it becomes strictly aligned with the other end of the belt, entering the front end of the
2 buckle.

3 AC. Reference U.S. Patent No. 4,373,234 (Boden) discloses a device for gripping an
4 elongated flexible element, such as a flexible belt, and including a first member, an actuating
5 member mounted to swing relative to the first member between locking and released
6 positions, and a locking member connected to the actuating member for swinging movement
7 therewith and acting in the locking position to clamp the elongated element against a gripping
8 portion of the first member in a relation retaining the elongated element against longitudinal
9 movement, with said locking member being free for limited pivotal movement relative to the
10 actuating member in a relation acting to progressively tighten the grip on said elongated
11 element as a result of said pivotal movement of the locking member relative to the actuating
12 member when the latter is in its locking position.

13 AD. Reference U.S. Patent No. 3,413,691 (Elsner) discloses a buckle for use with
14 straps in a cargo control system and particularly adapted for heavy-duty applications. The
15 buckle employs two friction surfaces to provide the heavy-duty feature. One surface is
16 opposite the moveable cam on the release lever and the other is a knurled convex surface on
17 the striker plate, which engages the flexible strap when the latter is in tension.

18 AE. Reference U.S. Patent No. 3,020,612 (Meeker) discloses a safety belt buckle and
19 invention resister that includes a back plate with two sidewalls. Formed on one end of the
20 back plate is a transverse slot in which the end of a safety belt extends. Disposal across the
21 formal end and between the sidewalls is a pivot pin. Formed on the pivot pin are a plurality
22 of eccentrically aligned jaws that mess against the end of the safety belt when rotated, A

1 restrainer is provided that receives the free end of the safety belt.

2 AF. Reference U.S. Patents No. 2,998,626 (Prete) discloses a strap buckle for
3 connection to one strap end and for releasable engagement with a second strap end, which
4 buckle is particularly adapted for connecting the ends of cargo straps. The buckle includes
5 two upright side plates connected together with three transversely aligned pins. Disposed
6 around the top pin is an eccentrically aligned gripping member that grips the free strap when
7 rotated in a downward direction.

8 AG. Reference U.S. Patent No. 2,622,293 (Wermlinger) discloses a safety belt
9 buckle that includes an eccentrically shaped clamping member, which when rotated presses
10 against the free end to hold the strap on the buckle.

11 AH. Reference U.S. Patent No. 2,513,169 (Griswold) discloses a safety belt buckle
12 that also includes a moveable release lever that engages a moveable jaw that presses against
13 the free end of a strap wrapped around the final clamp jaw.

14 The Applicant and his attorney submit that the above-cited references taken alone or
15 in combination neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. None of the
16 references disclose or claim an improved strap tensioner that includes an improved strap
17 tensioner comprising:

- 18 a. a rigid base with a front flange member and a rear flange member;
- 19 b. a tension lever longitudinally aligned located over said rear flange member,
20 said tension lever including a lower clamping flange;
- 21 c. an intermediate member pivotally connected to said rigid base, said
22 intermediate member including a lower first cam surface;
- 23 d. means for pivotally connecting said tension lever to said intermediate member

1 so that said first cam surface is disposed above said lower clamping flange on said tension
2 lever;

3 e. means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member in opposite
4 directions;

5 f. a means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said
6 rigid member; and,

7 g. a means for coupling the movement of said tension lever and said intermediate
8 member so that when said tension lever is rotated a predetermined amount in a forward
9 direction, said intermediate member is engaged and rotates in a forward direction.

10 The listed references relate only to the general field of the disclosure and do not
11 constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims; they are
12 cited only as constituting the closest art of which the Applicant and his attorney are aware.

13

14 Respectfully submitted,

15 
16 DEAN A. CRAINE

17 Reg. No. 33,591

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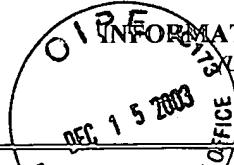
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Docket Number (Optional) RARR 105	Application Number 10/659,524
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Filing Date SEPTEMBER 10, 2003	Group Art Unit 3723

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER'S INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA.	6,360,410 B1	03/26/2002	LOVATO	24	662	02/03/2000
	AB.	5,832,569	11/10/1998	BERG	24	170	11/25/1997
	AC.	4,373,234	02/15/1983	BODEN	24	191	04/01/1980
	AD.	3,413,691	12/03/1968	ELSNER	24	170	10/21/1965
	AE.	3,020,612	02/13/1962	MEEKER	24	170	01/16/1956
	AF.	2,998,626	09/05/1961	PRETE, JR.	24	170	08/10/1959
	AG.	2,622,293	12/23/1952	WERMLINGER	24	170	09/12/1950
	AH.	2,513,169	06/27/1950	GRISWOLD	24	170	12/24/1947

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER _____ **DATE CONSIDERED** _____

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.